



# ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT *ESPRIT*

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## St. Louis and New York U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts partner on one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of our time

*By JoAnne Castagna and Lattissua Tyler*



Archaeological field technician excavating at the African Burial Ground site.

photo furnished by US GSA

In September 2003, New York District Corps employee, Victoria Gross, slowly and quietly entered a large, cool room in the historic Hamilton U.S. Customs House and Museum in Lower Manhattan, New York City, as if she were entering a church.

The room was filled, wall-to-wall with large crates. She gently rested her palm to her chest and gazed at them, knowing they were filled with the human remains from New York City's 18th Century African Burial Ground.

About the same time, Angela Grimes, a St. Louis District Corps employee, was awed by a local broadcaster's report regarding a grand ceremony for the reburial of these remains.

Both employees were witnesses to one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th Century.

"As an American of African ancestry, it was a momentous occasion to be in the presence of where the remains and artifacts are being stored and to observe them being meticulously handled and examined by archaeologists from New York and St. Louis Districts and Howard University," said Gross, who is the African American Special Emphasis Program Manager, New York District. She added, "It was insightful and gave me a sense of serenity."

"I knew about the burial ground, but until I saw the news report, I didn't know that [my organization] was leading this effort...ensuring the success of documenting the remains," said Angela

**Cont. page 3**



## Commander's Perspective



**COL Kevin Williams**

Thanks to all who attended this year's Veteran's Day Town Hall. I know it was a great event made even better with the live feed from Iraq with Alan Dooley. Congratulations to all those who worked towards making it a great event.

It is great that so many of you turned out to honor our veterans. The stories and memories Tim Hiller, Warren Jones, Todd Stoeckel, and Alan Dooley shared regarding their experiences in Iraq made the ceremony truly unique.

I am really proud of the support the St. Louis District is providing to the reconstruction effort in Iraq. We currently have 11 employees deployed and I will join them at the end of this month.

Lawrence Williams, RE, is scheduled for CREST duty in Baghdad soon after the holidays.

I will be relieving Col. Mike Conrad, Sacramento District's District Engineer, in charge of the Iraqi Reconstruction Office, overseeing the \$1.0 billion

infrastructure contract between USAID and Bechtel – the prime contractor.

It is certainly a job that I will take on with mixed emotions. I am excited about the opportunity to more directly contribute to the security of our Nation during this critical time in our history, but at the same time, saddened by the fact that I will be away from my family and friends, this wonderful job, and all of you.

You have done great work this year and I know there are challenges ahead. Major construction is continuing at Lock and Dam 24; we will begin implementing USACE 2012; the main levee portion of construction at Valley Park will begin, and seasonal low water will keep Water Control and the Dredge Potter well employed during the new year.

I will be back, and I will bring with me a tremendous amount of new knowledge to add to my work here. I look forward to working alongside those District employees already in the field.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a safe and Joyous Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.

Enjoy your time with your families, and please keep all of our deployed military personnel and civilian service members in your thoughts.

I'll see you next year!

Essayons



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## African Burial Ground Cont. from page 1

Grimes, of the St. Louis District's Information Management Office.

The New York and St. Louis Districts were key players on the African Burial Ground Project, one of the General Services Administration's (GSA) priority projects.

In 1991, GSA's Northeast & Caribbean Region headquarters in New York City began excavating for a proposed new federal government building in Lower Manhattan, between Broadway and Duane Streets. It was during the excavation that an 18th Century African burial ground was unearthed.

GSA hired archaeologists to investigate the find. They exhumed over 400 adult and child skeletal remains in partially decayed wooden coffins with scores of artifacts, including coins, shells and beads. The human remains were found wearing shrouds fastened with brass straight pins and jewelry. The coffins were closely stacked in layers, going down as deep as 23 feet below street level.

The presence of an African burial ground in Lower Manhattan was known through historic maps and was believed to have encompassed five to six acres of Lower Manhattan, or about five present-day city blocks and to hold up to 20,000 burials. However, historic city documents and GSA's own Environmental Impact Statement, conducted prior to the excavation, indicated that remnants of the burial ground at the location of the planned construction sight was unlikely because building construction during the 1800s would have removed what remained of the burial ground.

Tests conducted by the archaeologists would reveal that portions of the burial ground were actually deeper beneath the ground surface than expected and apparently were unaffected by 19th Century development.

The excavation of the new federal government building was halted and approximately 10,000 square feet of the burial ground was fenced off, grassed over and protected. Construction of the



**Human remains and artifacts were reburied in beautifully handcrafted coffins specially manufactured in Ghana, Africa.**

building eventually resumed and 290 Broadway was completed in 1994, leaving the remainder of the burial ground untouched. Ten thousand coffins are believed to be buried 30 feet below the ground surface.

In 1993, the burial ground was declared a National Historic Landmark, and GSA made plans to preserve the burial ground. The agency funded research to examine the findings in order to gain insight into the lives of 18th Century enslaved African Americans.

Plans were made to develop a memorial and public education center adjacent to the burial ground with the assistance of the National Park Service and hold a reburial ceremony.

In 1993, GSA asked Howard University, based in Washington, D.C., to

conduct scientific analysis of the human remains and artifacts before they could be reburied.

The university brought the human remains to Howard University's Cobb Laboratory for examination and also established a lab in the World Trade Center's Building 6 to house and examine the artifacts. The artifacts were still being stored in the building when the WTC was destroyed on September 11, 2001. Amazingly, much of the shelves holding the artifacts remained standing and most of the artifacts were recovered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

After September 11th, GSA was in search of a suitable curation facility. Because of his exceptional reputation, the agency called upon Dr. Michael Trimble, anthropologist and director of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (MCX-CMAC), at the Corps' St. Louis District.

The Center is the largest single organization in the Department of Defense dedicated to addressing the curation of archeological collections on a national scale.

"We work with other Corps districts and agencies on the preservation, storage and management of archeological and



**The African Burial Ground was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1993.**



## African Burial Ground Cont. from page 3

historical materials and associated documentation,” said Trimble.

“Our success is based on the relationships we have with other districts and agencies,” he added.



District employees Keisha Hurst (L) and Lara Anderson inventory small artifacts at Howard University.

Dr. Trimble has worked with GSA on other archaeological projects. “Many are unaware that Anthropology and Archaeology are sensitive issues. My department has worked numerous projects and it was an honor to be called upon to assist with this one,” said Dr. Trimble.

He worked with Howard University and GSA to set up an archaeological lab at the Hamilton U.S. Customs House and Museum in Lower Manhattan, New York City.

GSA also asked the Corps to be technical advisors on the project.

Employing USACE’s principles of virtual teaming, Dr. Trimble called upon the Corps’ New York District for a set of “local eyes and ears.”

“For this to work efficiently, I needed someone in the area that knew the project,” said Trimble.

The project would call for numerous weekly and monthly meetings to ensure his plans were being executed. Trimble felt the cost in travel and time would not be feasible for the Corps or GSA.

“I was aware that Nancy Brighton, lead archaeologist with the New York District, had an intimate knowledge of New York archaeological sites,” said Trimble. “Nancy’s efforts were exceptional. She definitely became my right

hand during this project.”

Brighton was Dr. Trimble’s principal assistant and local liaison. The two, along with many other personnel, worked as a virtual team for the last two years to ensure the projects success.

“I acted as a technical project manager and provided local expertise and representation. I oversaw the work being conducted at the lab at the Customs House as well as made sure all of the project elements were being completed.

“This involved coordinating the ABG team meetings that included archaeologists from New Jersey and New York, GSA personnel based in Lower Manhattan, various regulatory agencies, members of the African American community and other project stakeholders,” said Brighton.

In Summer 2003, Dr. Trimble asked Brighton to go to Howard University with the St. Louis District Team to supervise the inventory of the human remains.

“I supervised the Howard University advanced osteology students and the St. Louis osteologists as they confirmed that all of the remains removed from the burial ground were being returned for reburial,” said Brighton.

Howard University scientists had prepared skeletal biology, history and archeology reports. “These reports had to be technically proficient and complete because the human remains and artifacts after being examined were going to be reburied,” Brighton said.

During the summer, the Bronx Council for the Arts (BCA), working with the Corps and Howard University, were also responsible for matching the human remains with the coffins that were specially manufactured in Ghana, Africa, for this project.

Each side of the coffin was intricately carved with traditional West African symbols and scenes. BCA wrapped each individual in linen before placing the individual in a coffin. “Letters from the Ancestors,” written by members of the African American community, were also

placed with the bodies.

The “Rites of Ancestral Return,” a three-day reburial ceremonial event, began with a ceremony at Howard University on Sept. 30.

Four ceremonial coffins carrying the remains of an adult male, an adult female, and two children were transported to several cities on their journey back to New York City. Ceremonies took place at every stop including - Baltimore, Wilmington, Philadelphia, and Newark City.

At Newark City the coffins were transported to Jersey City where they were placed on a boat.

On Oct. 3, the boat carried them up the New York Harbor towards Lower Manhattan and Wall Street where the slaves originally entered New York City in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

From Wall Street, the four ceremonial coffins joined a procession with the rest of the coffins from the Customs House and all of them were carried by horse-drawn carriages to the burial ground.



Natalie Drew and BCA contractors carefully place coffins in the crypt.

The coffins were then placed inside seven large African Mahogany Burial crypts, also manufactured in Ghana, and a 20-hour vigil commenced.

On Oct. 4 the remains from the African Burial Ground were reburied.

Trimble reflects back on the project, “This is a great example of people in the Corps trusting one another and one another’s capabilities.”

Gross said, “Knowing the remains are being re-buried in their rightful place truly pleased my soul.”

“This is truly Government at its best,” Grimes added.





## Learning From the Past

by Keisha M. Hurst, ED-Z

One of the most important historical archaeological finds in North America was the discovery of an eighteenth century “Negroes Burial Ground” in New York City’s lower Manhattan.

Now known as the “African Burial Ground,” the site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1993. Following ten years of extensive scientific research and analysis at Howard University in Washington, D.C., the human remains and burial artifacts were re-interred in their original resting place on Oct. 4.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District’s Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (MCX-CMAC), in partnership with the New York District, played a major behind the scenes role in the most visible “public aspect” of the project, the three-day re-interment ceremony entitled ‘Rites of Ancestral Return.’

The General Services Administration (GSA) initially sought the assistance of the MCX-CMAC a little over two years ago, to evaluate the project and provide program recommendations.

Because the project had so many different components and involved many specialized researchers throughout the country, Dr. Sonny Trimble, chief of the Curation and Archives Analysis Branch, recommended that the Corps, and MCX specifically, had the range of professionals required to manage the project to completion. GSA accepted the recommendation, and the Corps was given the job with Dr. Trimble appointed as the contracting officer’s technical representative.

The Corp’s biggest challenge came when called upon to plan the re-interment ceremony. The preparation for the ceremony began in July 2003 at Howard University.

Using the resources of almost the entire branch, the MCX team, including the addition of Nancy Brighton of the



**The decorative, handcrafted coffins, were all unique and pictured native scenes and symbols on all sides but the bottom.**

New York District as assistant chief, and an osteological team at Howard University’s Biological Anthropology Laboratory, met to conduct the ‘Reconciliation Phase’ of the project.

This involved re-inventorying the human remains to confirm that all remains were present and that every individual and artifact would be re-interred. GSA provided the funds for over 400 coffins to be hand crafted in Ghana. The coffins, constructed from mahogany wood, were designed with West African adinkra symbols and carvings pictorializing African culture on the outside panels. The coffins were made in five different sizes to accommodate the different amount of remains for each individual.

One particular individual, burial #101, was a man who stood approximately six feet tall. Around the proximal end of the femur, the man had developed ‘squatting notches,’ which according to historians is indicative of the squatting positions of high status individuals in Africa.

Additionally, his were the only remains originally found in a preserved wooden coffin with brass nails arranged in a heart shape pattern, which was later determined to be a West African adinkra symbol called sankofa.

Sankofa is an Akan word that means, “We must go back and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we under-

stand why and how we came to be who we are today.” Out of the numerous adinkra symbols and meanings that could have been placed within the grave, ‘sankofa,’ the symbol of the importance of learning from the past, was the chosen one.

In a project where meticulous, detailed research revealed the stories of the bones, one could only speculate if the ancestors knew the discovery of the site was inevitable. The sankofa symbol has since become a trademark for the African Burial Ground Project, and it is featured in brochures and publications.

On the Net:

[www.africanburialground.com/ABG\\_Main.htm](http://www.africanburialground.com/ABG_Main.htm)



**The West African adinkra symbol, sankofa, is heart shaped.**



## Captured Munitions and Operation Iraqi Freedom

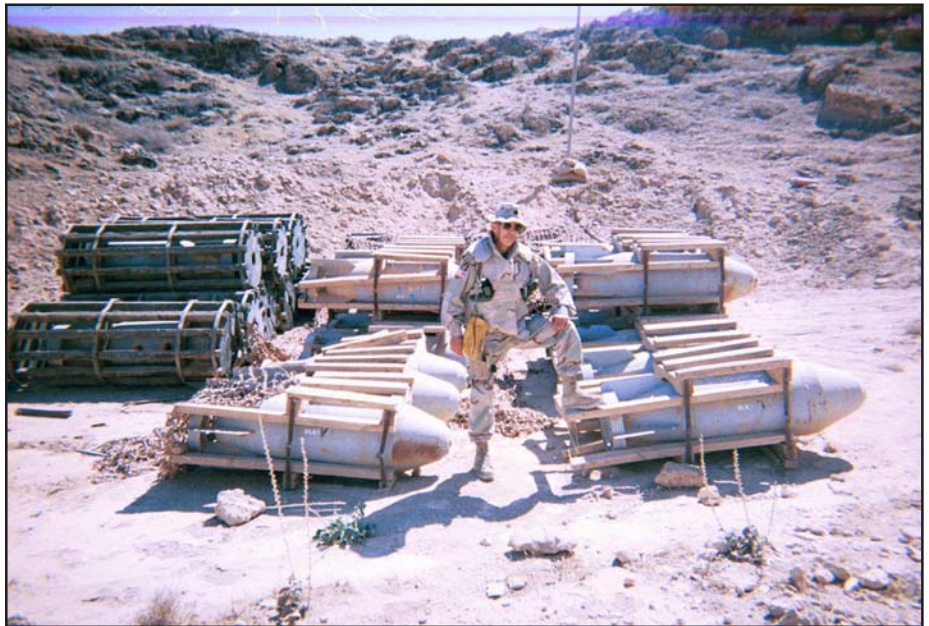
By Gregg Kocher, ED-P

Last March as I watched news footage of the war in Iraq unfolding, mixed emotions emerged. On the one hand, I was a bit uncomfortable with the United States invading a sovereign nation on such weak grounds, yet I also felt the need to be in the action. I served on active duty in the Army during Operation Desert Storm and always felt we had some unfinished business in Iraq. It began to gnaw at me and I threw my hat into every arena I could think of to get deployed. There just didn't seem to be any calling for a washed up bomb disposal officer.

Then, in early May, while performing my normal two-week Reserve drill with the Missile and Space Intelligence Center (MSIC) at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, word came down that they didn't have enough explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians in-country to fill all the requirements. Before I knew it, my hand was raised to volunteer. The mission was to support the Joint Captured Materiel Exploitation Center (JCMEC) that was being formed to collect delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction (WMD), as well as other equipment of intelligence value.

I was sent to the Fort Benning School for Wayward Boys for pre-deployment training and equipment issue. While there, I spent several days with a number of Iraqi expatriates, who'd fled their homeland in 1990 and were now American citizens. They were returning to Iraq to be linguists for the Coalition.

From there, I spent a few days at Redstone Arsenal, where I swapped out the old Beretta M-9 pistol I was issued at Benning for a new M-11 pistol and an M-4 carbine. My wife and kids came down to see me off. Although she was only five at the time, my oldest daughter still remembers the day I left for Saudi Arabia in 1990 and I felt pangs of guilt for doing this to her again. But they only lasted for a minute, as I was



Kocher stands beside Iraqi bombs captured at the Al Asad Air Base.

psyched to go.

I was told by the folks at MSIC that the JCMEC mission would run for 90 days; however, my orders mobilizing me to active duty were for 365 days and the temporary duty orders to go to Iraq were for 179 days, so naturally, Mike Dace and the Ordnance and Technical Services Branch (ED-P) were placing bets on when I would return!

After three days on the ground in Qatar, I boarded a Royal Australian Air force C-130 that stopped in Kirkuk, then finally in Baghdad. The approach into both of those runways was low and fast and we were advised to wear flak vests and Kevlar helmets. The aircrew ejected flares to foil man-portable surface-to-air missiles that are occasionally launched at military aircraft.

The mid-July sun in Baghdad was almost too bright even for my Polarized sunglasses and everything was covered with dust. It's a dusty land; not sandy, just dusty. The activity in and around the Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) was frenetic and the military build-up continued to grow each week. I moved into a former Republican Guard compound that looked like a 1950's motel – a shot-up motel. As temperatures hit 131 degrees, I was grateful for

the air-conditioning in my room and in my Toyota Land Cruiser. The reader is probably scratching his/her head and wondering, "I thought the troops were roughing it and suffering in austere conditions?" Well, friends, welcome to the Iraq Survey group (ISG), under which the JCMEC fell. You see, the ISG is a Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) operation, and spares no expense in pursuit of its motto to "Find, Exploit, Eliminate" WMD.

The JCMEC was headed by an Australian brigadier general and staffed with U.S., British, Australian and Canadian personnel, both civilian and military. The U.S. had representatives from such agencies as the Office of Naval Intelligence, the National Air Intelligence Center, the National Ground



A recovered surface-to-air missile, SA-6 launcher, at Taji military base.





Intelligence Center and the Threat Systems Management Office. I was the senior representative for MSIC.

I enjoyed working with the Brits and Australians. They display a good mix of professionalism and good-natured attitude, which suits me fine, as we had to make up many rules as we met new challenges. We disassembled surface-to-air missiles together, searched bunkers together, got shot at together and I watched them drink beer in the evenings (General Order Number 1 prohibited U.S. personnel from consuming alcohol, but did not apply to some of our allies).

Once, while working on an SA-6 missile, we needed a pry bar to wedge the warhead away from the guidance package. A British expert said, "Wait, I've got just the ticket. I grew a special stick in my garden in England and brought it all the way just for this occasion." He proceeded to pick up a 2 x4 board and pry the missile apart. We had lots of fancy tools, but some times low-tech beats high-tech.

As the TV news is quick to point out, Iraq is still a dangerous place, although it depends on where one is located. BIAP took occasional mortar and rocket fire, but it had a sort of "National Lampoon's Iraqi Vacation" atmosphere. There is a PX, Burger King and a swimming pool at the ISG. Many people wore T-shirts and shorts (with a shoulder holster). Once you left the confines of a large compound, though, you were in Wild West country.

I had a number of close calls. Once, while riding in a convoy, we had just passed through the small town of Hit. Local kids waved and gave us "thumbs up." On the outskirts of town, in rural farm country, I was thinking that there is a lot of promise here, when a loud explosion erupted to my left rear. In my mirror, I could see a huge plume of gray smoke rising up and expected enemy fire to rake us at any moment.

Our procedure was to scoot on down the road and then stop to assess casualties and damage. Unfortunately, one of our vehicles was a heavy equipment trans-



**Several trips were taken in and out of Taji, a large Iraqi military complex. This convoy carried out recovered surface-to-air missiles.**

porter loaded with the fuselage of a Chinese jet aircraft, so "scooting" meant speeding up to 45 mph. Amazingly, no one was injured and no vehicles were damaged. Our good fortune was highlighted even more when the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment went to investigate the scene and discovered that only one of six artillery shells arrayed along the road and rigged together as an improvised explosive device, had detonated.

On missions known as "Mad Max runs," I wore civilian clothing and drove at high speeds through downtown Baghdad to arrive at a safe house where an Iraqi general officer was being interviewed. He was in charge of several missile programs and I went along as a technical advisor. These missions resulted in some important intelligence breaks for the Coalition.

My tour also included taking in some of the cultural sites. Ancient Babylon is under U.S. Marine Corps control, and is a popular site for day tours. Under the merciless glare and heat of a 125-degree day, mud bricks from 300 B.C. looked little different from those reconstructed this century. After the tour, GI's could choose to be mobbed at an open-air bazaar where no haggling needed to be done, as vendors swarmed around, automatically lowering their prices when a soldier shook his head.

Mid-tour breaks for war-weary troops

are now being authorized, but I had a break in August when I flew to Kuwait to help coordinate the shipment of some captured armored vehicles. I stayed in a luxurious hotel, where I was embarrassed to enter in my fatigues. The swimming pool and restaurants were top-notch and I certainly couldn't leave without visiting the gold souk, a marketplace of indescribable splendor.

The JCMEC's collection effort ended as of the first of September and all that was left was to palletize and load all of our captured enemy materiel. We shipped out 19 planeloads of vehicles, weapons systems and ammunition on C-17 and C-5 aircraft, for intelligence exploitation, training and testing.

Along the way, I met a host of memorable characters, participated in high-risk missions to remote areas, toured Saddam's palaces and got to experience a bit of history in the making.



**Soldiers shop the local bazaar just outside the gates of ancient Babylon.**

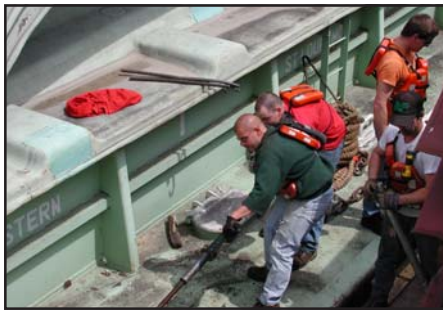


## Corps and the Public Discuss Upper Mississippi Navigation Study

On Oct. 20, St. Louis was the first stop on a series of seven public meetings held in the five-state study region impacted by the Upper Mississippi River – Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study. More than 100 people attended the St. Louis public meeting at Spazio Westport in west St. Louis County.

Representatives from the barge industry, farming and environmental community, and government listened to an overview presentation given by Denny Lundberg, regional project manager, asked questions, made statements and filled out comment sheets.

Lundberg briefly touched on the six navigation alternatives and five ecosystem alternatives being considered as part of the study. The tentative alternative plans are designed to achieve the sustainability of both the navigation system and the ecosystem of the Upper Mississippi River System.



**Deckhands work hard to reassemble the tow after a double lockage.**

Ultimately, the Corps will select one navigation and one ecosystem alternative to forward to the Administration and Congress.

The seven public meetings, which were held in St. Louis; Quincy and Peoria, Ill.; Davenport and Dubuque, Iowa; Bloomington, Minn., and La Crosse, Wis., allowed interested parties to learn about the progress of the study and provide statements for the official record.

Public questions and comments were taken for almost four hours at the



**A fifteen barge tow pushes north for points unknown. Tons of grain, coal and other bulk commodities ply the Upper Mississippi river system each year.**

St. Louis meeting. Individuals representing the barge industry and the farming community expressed undivided support for Navigation Efficiency Alternative No. 6.

Alternative No. 6 includes moorings at Locks 12, 14, 18 and 24; new locks at 20-25 on the Mississippi, and at La Grange and Peoria on the Illinois; lock extensions at 14-18; and switchboats at Locks 11-13.

The public meetings came at a critical decision point in the complex study that has spanned more than a decade. The study, which began in 1993, initially considered improving navigation and

reducing congestion along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

The study was restructured in 2001 to include ecosystem restoration as an integral part of the study.

“The restructured study takes a more holistic approach towards the relationship between the environment, navigation and the floodplain,” said Lundberg.

Another series of public meetings are scheduled for May 2004, where the study’s conclusions outlined in the Draft Feasibility Study will be discussed. The final report will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works in October 2004.



**This tow has completed its journey through the system of locks and dams. Its next stop could be the Gulf of Mexico.**





## Lewis and Clark Activities

Rend Lake Park Ranger Tim Bischoff returned to Illinois the week of Oct. 27 having spent 17 days TDY at the Louisville, Ky., Lewis and Clark “Falls of the Ohio” National Signature Event.

The 13-day commemoration and signature event showcased the role the Falls area and its residents played in the success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.



**Tim Bischoff (L) as George Drouillard of the Lewis and Clark expedition.**

The event opened on Oct. 14 with the reenactment of Lewis’ arrival and meeting with William Clark in Louisville, and ended with the Corps of Discovery’s departure from Clarksville, Ind. on Oct. 26.

During the event, over 110,000 people participated in all of the event activities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had significant involvement in the event.

The Corps’ exhibit booth and barge exhibit were open to the public. Norma Hall, Carlyle Lake, and Becky Hays, Wappapello Lake, each worked part of the Louisville event on the Corps Barge.



**Corps Ranger Craig Lykins, Albuquerque District, puts kids in touch with history as he shares the significance of the Lewis and Clark expedition.**



**Fresh recruits must learn muskett basics and precision drilling before being accepted into the service.**

Corps employees also participated in a re-enactment of Capt. Lewis’ military company. Corps employees made presentations in the Falls Tent, the Tent of Many Voices, and in regional schools. The public was also able to view a display of Lewis and Clark paintings commissioned by the Corps of Engineers.

Bischoff presented a portrayal of George Drouillard at two schools, the Falls tent, and for the first time in the National Park Service’s “Tent of Many Voices.”

Ken Wilk, the Assistant National Bicentennial Coordinator, and Bischoff

were also involved in assisting the Alton Signature Event planners in taking marketing photos for the upcoming May event.

The Corps of Engineers’ re-enactors and the Frontier Army Living History Association of Capt. Lewis’ Company will team up with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ Detachment at Camp DuBois to re-enact the encampment in the fort at the Lewis and Clark Historic Site in Hartford, IL during this upcoming signature event.



**Crew members return well wisher’s waves as they depart for their next port of call.**



## Water Safety Tips From Wappapello Lake

Although the term “boating season” is generally thought of as the time between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, many boaters find that the fall, and even early winter, months are a great time to visit our lakes.

The lakes are less crowded this time of year, and mild temperatures make for pleasant days on the water for hunters, fishermen, and recreational boaters.

The U.S. Coast Guard reports though that boaters involved in accidents are at the greatest risk of dying in the fall months (October-December). The air may still be warm, but the water is cooler; and fewer boats on the lake mean fewer people to rescue boaters in distress.

With those facts in mind, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, offers some fall and winter boating safety reminders.

**Check the Weather.** The weather in the fall and winter can change dramatically with little or no warning. Always check the local forecast just before going out on the water. A forecast of windy conditions means the water will be rough, even if it does not look that way at the moment.

### Prepare a Float Plan.

Leave a description of your boat (including registration number), the number of people on board, the area where you will be boating, and the time you expect to leave and return with a friend or family member. If you are reported missing on the water, it is extremely helpful for rescuers to know what area of the lake you should be in. If your boat has capsized, time is of the essence. A good float plan could mean the difference between life and death.

**Wear Your Life Jacket.** If your boat capsized or you fall overboard during cold-water months, your chances of survival increase dramatically if you are wearing a life jacket.

**Know the Facts about Hypothermia.** Cold water conducts heat out of the body approximately twenty-five times faster than air does. If you go



overboard into cold water, your core temperature will begin to drop within ten to fifteen minutes. Focus all of your effort into getting out of the water as quickly as possible. Climb onto anything floating to get your body out of the water. If getting out of the water is impossible, remember these survival tips:

- Do not take off your clothes. They trap air and help keep you afloat, in addition to trapping body heat.

- Cover your head and keep it above water. In cold water, about half of your heat loss comes from the head.
- Do not panic. Draw your knees to your chest in the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (H.E.L.P.), protecting the major areas of heat loss. If there are other people in the water with you, huddle together with one person in the middle of the huddle. Rotating the person in the middle allows everyone to benefit from the trapped body heat of the other members of the huddle.
- Do not try to swim, unless you can swim to reach a nearby boat, floating object, or another person. Swimming releases the warm water trapped between your body and your clothing and caused “warm” blood to be sent to your extremities. As a result, swimming can actually reduce your survival time by as much as 50%.
- Remain as still as possible, even if it is painful. Intense shivering and severe pain are natural body reflexes in cold water. They will not kill you, but heat loss will. When you are in the water in cold weather, remaining still gives you the best chance of survival.

**Leave the Alcohol at Home.** Drinking impairs judgment and coordination and is often a major factor in boating accidents. If boaters do end up in the water during the cold weather months, judgment and coordination are critical factors in staying alive.

There is nothing quite like a clear, crisp autumn day on the water. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hopes that, by following these safety tips, you will be able to enjoy many more to come.





## Lake Shelbyville

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger Kelly Thomas was a recipient of the 2003 National Student Award for Excellence presented by the National Society of Park Resources.

Kelly received this award for his efforts and duties as a Park Ranger at Lake Shelbyville, while also attending Eastern Illinois University.

Eastern Illinois Recreation Professor Bill Smith nominated Kelly for the award.

The award was presented to Kelly during the awards banquet at the National Parks and Recreation Association convention held in City Museum in St. Louis.

Kelly has been a Park Ranger at Lake Shelbyville for the past four years.



**Park Ranger  
Kelly Thomas**

During two of those years he participated in the cooperative education program and has worked in the recreation, natural resources and interpretation sections.

He is a 1999 graduate of Windsor High School and graduated from Eastern Illinois University in August of this year with a Bachelors Degree in Recreation Administration.

Kelly has recently accepted a Park Ranger position with the Corps of Engineers at The Dalles-John Day Project in The Dalles, Oregon and will be leaving in mid-November.

## St. Louis Academy of Science recognizes Corps Employee

Claude Strauser, Chief of the Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch, was recognized and honored for his long-standing contributions to river engineering in an induction ceremony at Chase Park Plaza on Oct. 14.



**Claude Strauser,  
River Potomologist**

Claude, along with sixteen other distinguished area scientists and engineers, was elected Fellow by the Academy of Science of St. Louis.

Dr. Thomas Woolsey, president of the academy, conducted the Oct. 14 ceremony, and Suzanne Stolar, executive director of the academy, presented medals to the new fellows, who are all world renowned for accomplishments in their fields and for their contributions to science, engineering and/or science education.

Claude was recognized for leading a team of engineers and scientists in the creation of a new engineering field, environmental river engineering. Environmental river engineering began to take shape in the 1980s, and it

is focused on maintaining a safe and dependable navigation channel in an environmentally sensitive manner.

"The navigation industry and environmental restoration are both important," said Joe Kellett, Deputy District Engineer, for Planning, Programs, and Project Management.

"Claude was a big force in getting the various interest groups together in order to discuss the river and what could be done," Kellett said.

Through partnerships, Claude's team set out to build structures that would aid navigation but also benefit the environment.

Some of the team's innovations include notched dikes, off-bank line revetments, bendway weirs, hard points, chevrons, stepped-up dikes, and multiple round point structures, all of which benefit the total ecosystem of the Mississippi River, both navigation projects and aquatic inhabitants.

The Academy of Science of St. Louis also recognized Claude's implementation in 1994 of environmental pool management, a new way of operating locks and dams in order to create thousands of acres of critical wetland vegetation in the navigation pools, while still maintaining a safe and dependable navigation channel.

Through the years, the Corps and numerous outside agencies have recognized Claude's many accomplishments. In fact, Bendway Weirs garnered Claude the Award

for Design Excellence, presented by the President of the United States in 1994.

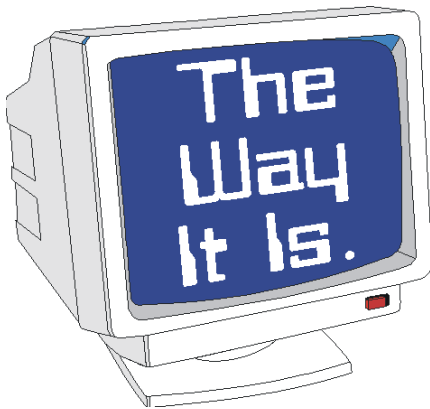
"Claude has been an outstanding ambassador for the St. Louis District," said Mel Baldus, Chief of the Engineering Division. "This honor is additional evidence of what Claude does for the District everyday. He represents us all well."

As an individual Claude does represent us all well, but he is quick to turn the focus on his amazing team of engineers and scientists.

"I didn't do it all by myself," Claude said. "I was able to achieve many of these successes because I am fortunate to have a highly trained, skilled and dedicated staff. They are the ones I rely on, and they are the members of the high performance team that accomplishes many of these exciting innovations."

While the recognition is nice, Claude knows that sacrificing the individual interests for the greater good of the whole is vital to team success. And it is through this belief that he has been able to guide the District's collaborative efforts between our critics and our stakeholders when it comes to successful river engineering.

*One of Claude's fellow nominees was former District Engineer Col. T. Roger Peterson, USA (Ret.). Peterson led the District from 1973 to 1976. Upon retirement, Peterson worked as a professional engineer at Booker Associates, Engineers, Architects, Planners, where he managed several large design projects, including the St. Louis MetroLink Light Rail System.*



I was walking down the hallway last week and Nicole Dowell asked me to do another article for Esprit. She wanted me to tell you about the military cadets who were assigned to me this summer. I agreed and here is my report.

The Reserve Officer Training Program (ROTC) is an officer accession program through which college students receive military training as part of their curriculum on many of our nation's college campuses. Various pronounced "R-O-T-C," or "ROT-tee," programs are sponsored by the Army, Air Force and Navy. Some large colleges have all three programs – others may have only one.

Upon graduation, Army ROTC students are commissioned as second lieutenants. This program also provides financial assistance to students while they are getting their college educations. ROTC is the largest single source of newly commissioned officers.

One aspect of their training includes a summer month at a military facility or a military organization such as the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Usually I get an email – or a visit – or phone call from the Deputy District Engineer early in the year asking if I am willing to participate in the next exercise. After pretending disinterest, I always respond with a definite YES! This leads to a lot of paper work, planning and time expended. So why do I say, "Yes?"

In addition to getting to spend time with some great young people and to

educate them about our mission, goals and our daily responsibilities, I enjoy the opportunity to help influence their career choices by showing them the advantages of possible future assignments with the Corps of Engineers.

What does the District get out of this effort? This is a great opportunity to give the cadets real world experiences by visiting and learning about the good things that are provided by the employees in the St. Louis District and the Corps. And who knows – maybe one of these cadets will become a District Commander someday. It never hurts to be nice to future bosses.

This year we had two exceptional military cadets. They were both from the state of Washington – I am not sure how that happened. When Major Tyron gave me their names and the information necessary to coordinate with them, I thought they might know one another. But they didn't, and had been randomly assigned to us.

Let me first introduce the cadets to you.



**Cadets Chad Duke and Justin Pritchard pass the St. Louis Gateway Arch.**

Cadet Chad Duke is attending school at Washington State University and is studying Civil Engineering. He joined the Army National Guard and the ROTC program in March of last year. He is the company XO (I think this means Executive Officer). He enjoys hiking, camping, shooting, fishing, running and reading. He is 21 years old.

Cadet Justin Pritchard is also a civil engineering major at Gonzaga University. Justin was the Student Body President of his high school (over 1200 students). He is interested in hydrology,



**Historic Eads Bridge passes astern as the cadets make their way upstream on the mighty Mississippi.**

water resource engineering and environmental applications. His interests include playing the guitar, singing, running, weight lifting and computers. He is also 21 years old.

This year Dawn Lamm stepped up to help me plan a schedule for the cadets.

Almost immediately we ran into difficulties. We were unable to contact the cadets to give them instructions about their travel and lodging. We learned that they were at Fort Lewis for four weeks of field training and we would not be able to reach them.

In the face of this rapidly deteriorating situation, Dawn exercised superior innovation and leadership by locating the mother of one of the cadets. After an exchange of emails, we were able to establish communications with the cadets through the unofficial, but highly



**Dennis Woodruff discusses construction at Lock and Dam 24 with the cadets and Col. Williams.**





effective “Call your Mom on the telephone” network.

I didn’t want the cadets to spend their time sitting in a cubicle working on a computer. Rather, I slated them for “muddy boots” visits to the projects to learn directly from the Corps employees. These included a combination of river and lake projects.

I called each project with a draft agenda and asked them if they would be willing to spend time with the cadets. They all responded very positively and we began to finalize the schedule for the cadets.

Highlights of the plan called for visits to the Mark Twain Lake project, the Rend Lake project, and to Lock and Dam 24 and the ongoing construction work there. They also ventured out onto Pool 26 aboard the MV Blankinship, visited the Articulated Concrete Mattress (ACM) Plant at Barfield Bend, Arkansas, an archaeology tour with Dr. Terry Norris and they participated in a Mississippi River Commission (MRC) meeting aboard MV Mississippi. It was a very full month for them



**David Asunkis (summer intern), Chad Duke, David Berti (Assistant Lake Manager, Mark Twain Lake) and Justin Pritchard**

At the end of their assignment I asked them to give me their impressions of the St. Louis District and the Corps of Engineers. Understand, I asked them this BEFORE our exit interview with Colonel Williams and Major Tyron. I wanted to be sure they were thinking in the “right” way.

Of course, they said all the correct things and they were sincere with their observations.



**Cadets Chad Duke and Justin Pritchard were each given a “certificate of appreciation” for their assistance in providing logistical support for the meetings being held on board the M/V Mississippi.**

One of their main impressions was of the Corps employees. The cadets were impressed by the energy and the excitement each employee showed as they discussed their responsibilities and duties. Each Corps employee displayed great pride in their work and accomplishments, the cadets reported. Justin and Chad also said that they were surprised at the many missions of the Corps of Engineers.

Finally, they both indicated a desire to seek future assignments with the Corps once they entered active duty with the Army. The District had “scored for the Corps.”

If I am asked to participate in this program next summer I will definitely do it again. I enjoyed visiting the projects with the cadets and experiencing their fresh perspectives and observations. And even though I have been doing this since I called Lt. Robert E. Lee, “Bob,” I have always learned from these young future Army officers as well.

This is a great program and I am happy the St. Louis District and our people are willing to participate in this educational opportunity. I think we gain as much, or more, than the cadets do.

Finally, I also want to thank Dawn Lamm for helping me to organize this program and the myriad logistics associated with the cadet visit.

If you didn’t get a chance to meet Justin Pritchard and Chad Duke this summer, I hope you will go out of your way to meet next year’s edition of these remarkable young people. I promise you, you will be impressed by them and you will thoroughly enjoy the chance to share your story with them. I know I sure did!

*Claude.*



**Donald Duncan, Hydraulic Engineer (L), Dr. Terry Norris, Chad Duke and Justin Pritchard. Visit to historic Fort de Chartres - built in the 1750s.**



## Maximizing the Moment

by Lattissua Tyler, PA

At the end of each year, I sit down and establish some new goals for the upcoming year. However, before I do this, I take time to reflect on the previous year and what I accomplished. I look at what went well this year, as well as what did not work so well.

It is only after this process that I can decide what makes sense to eliminate and what makes sense to keep doing or change.

Do you set goals? Do you have some established end-of-year routine that you do to determine what needs to change? If you don't already, this is the year to start the process of reflecting on your accomplishments for the previous year and establishing new goals for the current year.

I often decide, in the early part of each year, what workshops or training I should take to add value to who I am and what I do. No matter how much we know, there's always room to know more. All professionals need to "sharpen their skills" or attend courses just to validate what they do know. Professionals learn a lot from each other no matter what the profession. Whether you're an engineer or a professional

speaker it is important to constantly improve what you do.

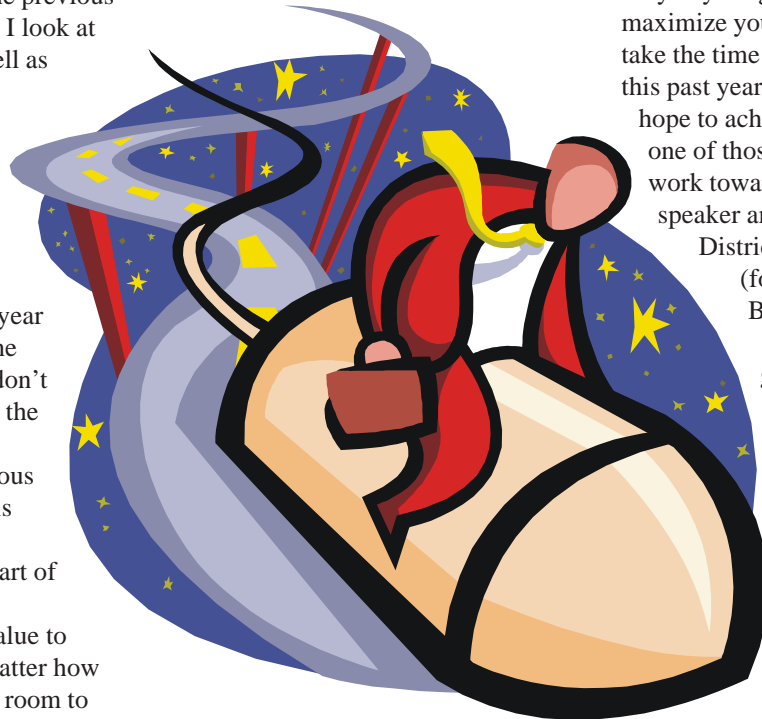
My goal for 2004 is to develop additional speech topics, both professionally and personally. On a personal basis, I'm preparing several sessions

full advantage of their opportunities, while ensuring they become humble future leaders.

Maybe your goal is to become a professional speaker or maybe your goal is to speak more than you did last year. Maybe your goal is to learn how to maximize your moments. In any event, take the time to reflect on what you did this past year and write down what you hope to achieve this year. Hopefully one of those achievements will be to work towards becoming a better speaker and joining the St. Louis District Ambassador Program (formerly the Speakers Bureau).

If this is a goal I have good news for you. The Public Affairs Office will be taking on a major campaign to help you fine-tune your speaking skills. In the next few issues of Esprit, we will discuss how to "Talk Turkey Without Turning Chicken." These articles will provide trade secrets and advice for public

speaking. Also, depending on your interest, PAO is contemplating efforts to develop a Toastmasters program for our District. So, if effective communication is one of your goals...send us a note.



aimed at helping other people, particularly young professionals like myself "Maximize the Moment." These sessions provide self-marketing techniques and tips to help individuals take

## Toastmasters

Toastmaster clubs can be a valuable asset to the organization and the individual. It is a "learn-by-doing" workshop in which men and women hone their public speaking and networking skills in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere.

If you are interested in helping to starting a club here at the District, please contact PAO for more details.



### US Army Corps of Engineers

St. Louis District®

#### Corps Ambassadors:

**Moe Dirnberger** (22 Oct)  
Presentations given by Moe Dirnberger at Green Pines Elementary school. Moe presented a Soil and Erosion presentation to over 130+ elementary school students.

#### Cathy Fox and Moe Dirnberger

(31 Oct 2003)

Provided a mentoring experience for Joey Lodes, a senior at Wesclin Sr. High School in Trenton, IL. Joe toured the District and was briefed on our different engineering expertise. Cathy and Moe also provided a Field visit to the Festus/Crystal City project, where an earthen levee is being built.

#### Claude Strauser (5 Nov 2003)

Presented River Engineering expertise to a science class titled "Water: Our Precious Resource," at St. Louis University.





## Retiree's Corner



The retirees had their monthly luncheon at the Salad Bowl on October 16.

Walter Feld mentioned the recent golf outing he and several other retirees enjoyed at the new Forest Park Golf Course. Those in attendance were Bob Wich, Dave Spencer, Ed Ewing, John Gall and Dave Harley, who came all the way from Florida. Dave was in town for other reasons but decided to join the gang in a round of golf. Everyone had a great time. Some even kept score.

Walt also mentioned that the National Great Rivers Museum at Melvin Price Locks and Dam was officially dedicated on October 15. He encouraged the retirees to visit.

Lew Scheuermann mentioned that he is on the mend from cardiac surgery. Lew said he had to have some "plumbing" opened and now has to participate in rehab to keep it open. He feels much better since having the work done.

On a recent river cruise, Elsie and John Kalafatich got to see the Corps in action. While traveling down the Mississippi River, Elsie and John went through several locks and dams. After all the years that Elsie worked for the District, she never saw the locks operate. They were very impressed.

Charlie Denzel mentioned that several of our retirees are no longer with us. John Jansen (one of our nongenerians), Bill Brown and Earl Ehler passed away this past month. Our condolences go out to their families.

When asked if he ever saw a fly, fly

upside down, Charlie Denzel said he did not think it was aerodynamically possible. Wally then asked him how the fly that was walking across the ceiling got there.

Some excerpts from the *Information Bulletins* from October 1968 and October 1973:

### 1968

-Larry Strunk (ED) accompanied Don Wampler and Bill Richardson (PB) on recruiting visits to University of Missouri campuses at Rolla and Columbia.

-Ed Siebert (ED-DA) spoke about water intakes and dangers of flooding on KMOX-TV.

-Gorden Cordes (CD-IS) presented a paper, "Mine Fill Grouting at the Shelbyville Reservoir, Illinois," before the National Association of Engineering Geologists in Seattle, Washington.

-Steve Williams, head of AS, spoke to students at Meramec Community College.

-People retiring at 55, with 30 years of service and a high-five salary of \$10,815 received a basic annuity of \$6,083.

-Among new employees to the District were:

Barbara Jarman

Sharon Buchheit

James Dorsey

William Gidcomb

-District Queen candidates were:

Jerilyn Ohlendorf (AS)

Mary Kahn (OD)

Nelda Conn (CD)

Sharon Buchheit (ED)

Barbara Steinhoff (PB)

### 1973

-President Nixon commended the Corps for the fine efforts in emergency flood fighting and Hurricane Agnes response.

-The Kaskaskia Navigation Project was the subject of presentations by Col. Peterson to the Propeller Club and Hank Martin to the American Right-of-Way Association.

-Otto Steffens told the Northwest Chapter of the Missouri Credit Union at Hannibal, Mo., about the status of the building of the Cannon Project.

-Per diem rates for long term training are \$14.

-New employees included:

Joan Heckstetter

Thomas Winston

Lenn Martin

Richard Howald

Isaiah (Ed) Mitchell

Cynthia Gan

Laural Lane

\*\*\*\*\*

-It was noted at the meeting that among the performance award recipients was Elsie Kalafatich, whereupon John Kalafatich commented that if she received a monetary award, he never saw any of it.

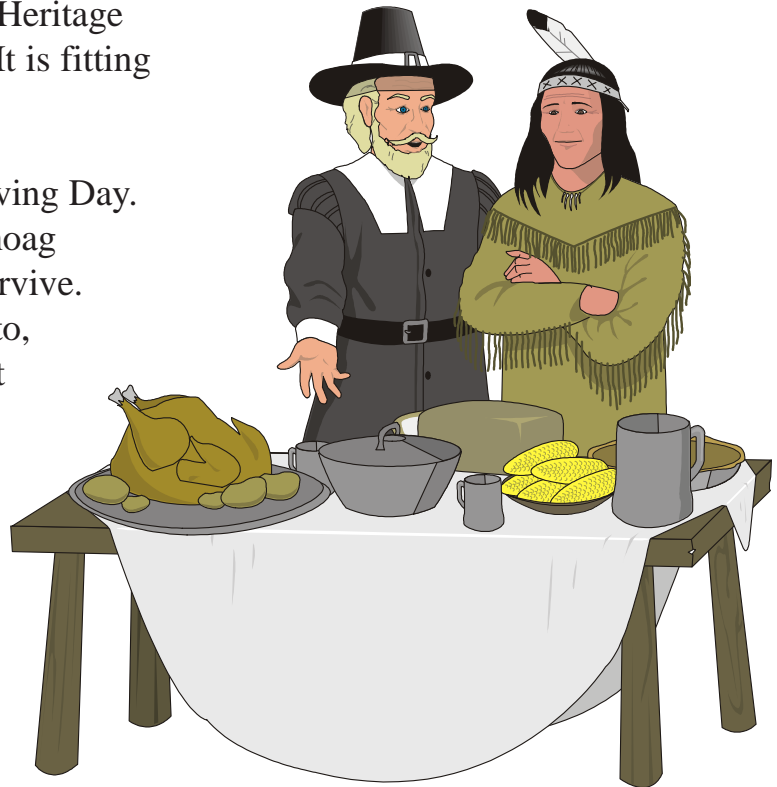
The next retiree's luncheon is November 20, at the Salad Bowl. All are welcome.

# November: National American Indian Heritage Month

It is fitting that American Indian Heritage month is celebrated in November. It is fitting for two reasons.

First, it is the month of Thanksgiving Day. It was the kindness of the Wamponoag Indians that helped the Pilgrims survive. Without the help of Indians Squanto, Samoset, and others, the settlement might have been lost. It had been reduced to just 50 people after the harsh first winter.

Squanto had been captured by English slavers some years before and spoke English quite well. He and Samoset decided to stay with the Pilgrims and teach them how to hunt, build housing, plant crops, and gather wild foods.



The second reason November is fitting is that it is the month of Veterans Day. It is an excellent time to recall that people of American Indian heritage have served in every war fought by the U.S.

In World War I some 12,000 served with the American Expeditionary Force, and many distinguished themselves in battle. In World War II over 21,000 fought against the Axis forces. They compiled a distinguished record of courage and sacrifice. Of American Indians in the service, 71 received the Air Medal, 51 the Silver Star, 47 the Bronze Star, 34 won the Distinguished Flying Cross, and two received the Medal of Honor.

In the Army Air Force they saw duty as pilots, navigators, gunners, bombardiers, and transport crews in all theaters of the war.

American Indians served in Korea, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm. Many achieved high positions of leadership in the military and in government.